

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-22, 42-55 and 63-66 are pending in the subject application. Claims 23-41 and 56-62 were previously canceled.

Claims 13-22, 55, 64 and 65 are acknowledged as being allowable by the Examiner.

Claims 42-54 and 66 were withdrawn from consideration as the result of an Examiner's earlier restriction requirement. In view of the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants reserve(s) the right to present the above-identified withdrawn claims in a divisional application.

Claims 1-3, 6, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claims 4, 5, 7-10 and 63 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, however, the Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if appropriately re-written in independent form.

Cancel claims 42-54 and 66, the withdrawn claims.

Claim 1 was amended in the foregoing amendment so as to include the limitations of claims 2 and 4. This amendment is made without prejudice to prosecuting pending claim 1 in a continuing application.

The objected to claims were not written in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Instead claim 1 was amended so as to include the limitations of claims 2 and 4 and claims 67 and 78 were added so as to essentially represent claims 7 and 9 in independent form.

Claim 2 was amended so as to depend from claim 80.

Claims 3, 5 and 6 were amended so each now depends from claim 1.

Claim 4 was amend so it now depends from claims 2, 78 or 79.

Claim 14 was amended so it now depend from claims 13 or 55.

Claims 68-77 and 79-88 were added so as to re-present come of the pending dependent claims so as to depend from the added claims (*i.e.*, claims 67 and 78) that correspond to claims 7 and 9 re-written in independent form.

The amendments to the claims are supported by the originally filed disclosure.

35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTIONS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bowman *et al.* [USP 6,378,536; "Bowman"]. Applicants respectfully traverse as discussed below.

As indicated above, claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 4. As such, Applicants believe that amended claim 1 is in allowable form.

Claim 1 is the base claim for each of claim 3, 11 and 12. As such, each of claims 3, 11 and 12 are considered to be allowable at least because of the dependency from an allowed base claim. This shall not be construed as admission, however, that this is the sole basis upon which these claims are considered to be distinguishable from the cited reference.

As to claim 2, this claim now depends from claim 80, which claim essentially corresponds to "objected to" claim 9 re-written in independent form. As such, claim 2 is considered to be allowable at least because of the dependency from an allowed base claim. This shall not be construed as admission, however, that this is the sole basis upon which claim 2 is considered to be distinguishable from the cited reference.

It is respectfully submitted that for the foregoing reasons, claims 2-3, 11 and 12 are patentable over the cited reference and thus, satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102(e). As such, these claims are allowable.

CLAIMS 4-5, 7-10, & 63

In the above-referenced Office Action, claims 4-5, 7-10 and 63 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. It also was provided in the above-referenced Office Action, however, that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s).

Claim 4 was not expressly re-written in independent form as suggested by the Examiner, rather the limitations of claim 2 (intervening claim) and claim 4 were added to the related base claim, claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 as amended is considered to be in allowable form.

Claims 7 and 9 were not expressly re-written in independent form as suggested by the Examiner, rather each of claims 7 and 9 were re-presented in independent form as added claims 67 and 78 respectively. Each of added claims 67 and 78 were written so as to include all the

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limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and the limitations of claim 7 and 9 respectively.

Accordingly, added claims 67 and 78 are considered to be in allowable form.

As to claims 5, 8 and 10, these claims were not re-written in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants however, reserve the right to later amend the subject application so as to present any one or more of these claims in independent form or to add one or more independent claims that contain the limitations of any one or more of claims 5, 8 and 10.

NEW CLAIMS 67-92

As indicated above, claims 7 and 9 were not expressly re-written in independent form as suggested by the Examiner, rather each of claims 7 and 9 were re-presented in independent form as added/ new claims 67 and 78 respectively. As also indicated above, claims 68-77 and 79-88 were added so some of the pending dependent claims were re-presented as depending from one claims 67 and 78. As such these added claims are clearly supported by the originally filed disclosure, including the originally filed claims. It also is respectfully submitted that these added claims are patentable over the cited prior art on which the above-described rejection(s) are based.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Because the total number of claims and/or the total number of independent claims post amendment now exceed the highest number previously paid for, a check is enclosed herewith for

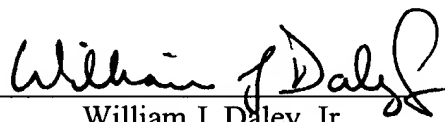
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the required additional fees. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,
Edwards & Angell, LLP

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By:



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